

Remarks

The Final Office Action dated February 24, 2010, has been carefully considered. Applicants have amended claims 1, 11 and 13 without the addition of new matter. The subject matter is disclosed on page 9, line 25 to page 10, line 7, and page 12, lines 14-21. Claims 6, 10, and 24 have been cancelled. Reconsideration of the current claims in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested. .

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

In Paragraph 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-9, 13, and 15-24 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Henriquez (US 4,840,737) in view of Bastiaensen et al. (WO 00/01657, as translated by US 6,541,665) or, alternatively, Bastiaensen et al. (WO 00/01657, as translated by US 6,541,665) in view of Henriquez (US 4,840,737). Applicants have amended claims 1 and 13, to which claims 2-9 and 15-24 claim dependency, without the addition of new matter. Neither Henriquez nor Bastiaensen et al., alone or in combination, disclose the amended claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that Henriquez taken together with Bastiaensen et al. fails to teach, suggest, disclose, and/or predict Applicants' claimed inventions. In particular, Henriquez and Bastiaensen et al., taken together, fail to disclose the wash material conveying means or the flow resistance as set forth in the current claims. Thus, the combination of Henriquez and Bastiaensen et al. fails to teach, suggest, disclose, and/or predict a washing apparatus having a first region with the conveying means having a pressure at the outlet of the wash material conveying means wherein the pressure fluctuates about not less than about 0.5 bar.

Without more, it would not be obvious, expected, or predictable that one of ordinary skill in the art would be inspired or prompted to modify Henriquez or Bastiaensen et al. to obtain Applicants' claimed washing apparatus. Moreover, without the benefit of Applicants' disclosure, it would not be obvious, expected, or predictable that one of ordinary skill in the art would be inspired or prompted to modify Henriquez, alone or in combination with Bastiaensen et al. to obtain any of Applicants' claimed washing apparatus.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the cited patents and are, indeed, patentable over such patents, and that the outstanding rejection of claims 1-9, 13 and 15-24 in ¶2 should be withdrawn.

In Paragraph 3 of the Office Action, claims 10, 11 and 14 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Henriquez (US 4,840,737) in view of Bastiaensen et al. (WO 00/01657, as translated by US 6,541,665), as applied to claims 1, 4 and 13 above, and further in view of Meisenburg et al. (US 3,801,285). Applicants have amended claims 1 and 13, to which claims 10, 11 and 14 claim dependency, without the addition of new matter. Neither Henriquez nor Bastiaensen et al., alone or in combination, disclose the limitations of the amended claims. Meisenburg et al. does not cure the deficiencies of Henriquez and/or Bastiaensen et al.

In light of these amendments, Applicants respectfully submit the rejection is now moot. Applicants respectfully request the examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 10, 11 and 14.

Double Patenting

As to ¶4 in the Office Action, cancellation of claim 24 will make this moot.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing remarks and amendments to the claims, Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. If any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' counsel at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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